

**St. Marys Downtown Development Authority (DDA)**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Meeting Minutes for November 10, 2014

The meeting of the St. Marys DDA was called to order by Straight at 8:31 am.

**Members Present:** Councilman Dave Reilly, and Charlie Smith, Cheri Richter, Bill Bruce, Gary Straight, and Terry Landreth

**Members not Present:** Jim Lomis

**Guest in attendance:** Elaine Powierski & Darren Harper

**Staff:** Renée Coakley; Executive Assistant, John Holman; City Manager

**Minutes:** The October 13, 2014 meeting minutes were presented by Smith. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Smith and seconded by Landreth. All were in favor.

**Treasurers Report:** Smith presented the financials which were approved with a motion by Smith and seconded by Bruce. All were in favor.

**Additions to the Agenda:** Richter added: lamp banner program; signage for community market; planters in downtown and their maintenance; and business for rent event. Landreth added: Tabby Trail.

It was decided that the items that Richter added need to be discussed at a meeting with several boards/authorities within the city. Reilly will set up a meeting with the cemetery committee, DDA, CVB, Tabby Trail Group, Earthkeepers, JDA, SMIG Committee, the City Manager and the City Planner. The subject of the meeting will be the items listed above and the idea of making the downtown more attractive. It was suggested that the meeting be held the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December and to extend an invitation to Cheryl Hargrove the regional tourism representative.

**BUSINESS DISCUSSION:**

**Team Camden:** Darren commented that the committee did not meet last month. They will possibly meet this month. The group will be assisting St. Marys Tourism with the visitors from the National Park Service in December.

**St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway (SMIG):** Straight reported that the subcommittee met with Forum Group, Inc. and a team of architects from New York. The architects presented three conceptual ideas. The subcommittee requested that design idea number two which included a boutique hotel, meeting room, restaurant and bar be enhanced for presentation to the SMIG committee and future city council meeting. The architects will come back in a few weeks with more defined renderings. The committee will meet and discuss them to fine-tune and later present to the citizens for comments.

**Maritime Heritage District:** Richter reported that she met with the City Planning Director recently following the completion of the 30 day commentary on getting cleats back on the pavilion dock. DNR meets every other month and if there are no comments, the appeal process

period will begin which lasts 30 days. Mr. Holman noted that the city is currently completing the application for the current and expanded SMIG docks so that this lengthy process can be completed in advance.

**Historic Tree Trail:** Richter reported that advertising will begin in December. The committee will have flyers and signage printed. An event has been scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup> with guest speaker Mr. Fred Boyles commemorating the presentation of the trail. Local dignitaries will be invited.

**Economic Development Committee:** Nothing to report.

Mr. Holman reported that interviews are still being conducted for the Main Street Coordinator.

Preparation for the Master Plan is still being conducted. Mr. Holman noted that he spoke with the Carl Vinson Institute and will be working on a RFQ for possible funding. This process will be completed prior to submitting an RFP for the project. The Coastal Regional Commission will assist with the RFQ. There will also be funding from the Department of Defense from the JLUS study.

The board discussed a future meeting combined with IDA board members. The discussion of the possibility of merging the IDA and DDA or members serving on both boards to encourage continuity will be looked into.

Mr. Holman reported that he met recently with Thomas and Hutton in regards to the TE Grant. The plans will be reviewed by GDOT after the exclusionary permit is completed and ecology report received. Construction will possibly begin in March 2015.

Straight commented on upcoming meetings on voting districts and encouraged board members to attend if possible.

**Tabby Trail:** Landreth reported that he recently gave a presentation to the CVB on the trail from Howard Gilman Park to Crooked River State Park. The city and CVB agreed with the idea and the city is applying for a recreational trails grant. The Sugar Mill Tabby Ruins will be part of the application for improvements. Landreth also mentioned the Three Rivers Ride this weekend with currently more than 100 signed up. The city recently mailed a letter to the East Coast Greenway a national organization which connects Maine to Key West in support of the trail. The Tabby Trail was adopted this past weekend and Landreth noted that he will be meeting with the CRC this afternoon on this effort.

**Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 9:36 am with motion by Bruce and second by Landreth. All were in favor.

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Charlie Smith, Secretary  
Prepared by Renée Coakley, Executive Assistant